

Editorial

THE IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS was selected into the Thomson Scientific database in 2006. It is covered in the following products: Science Citation Index Expanded, ISI Alerting Services, and Current Contents/Engineering, Computing & Technology. The coverage began with vol. 1. The current Impact Factor (IF) released in 2008 is 1,234. This is a marked improvement on the one released in 2007, which was 0.923. It is an indication that the journal publishes novel and relevant material of interest to the researchers from academia and industry and has impact on the evolution of ideas underpinning technological developments in the technical scope of the journal.

The quality of the submitted material has significantly improved over the past couple of years. Indirectly, this is also a result of a stringent review process managed by the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS Associate Editors who do their best to enforce the Journal's publication policies, and technical and presentation quality of the final material published in the Journal. In 2008, to date, 496 reviewers contributed their time and effort to provide the authors with an ample feedback to improve their submissions and in general their work. There were 736 review reports produced to support operation of the Journal.

An important mechanism for keeping the contents relevant is special sections. The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS publishes special sections which have strong focus on the cutting-edge research in fast-changing areas of technological sciences of interest to our readers—to mention the special section on Wireless Technologies in Factory and Industrial Automation, a trendy area, as an example. The coming issues of the Journal will feature special sections covering a broad spectrum of technical areas within the publication scope of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS. Details are on the main electronic page of the Journal. Embedded systems is the underlying theme of a number of those sections, in applications ranging from industrial automation to automotive systems. This is not surprising as the IEEE

Industrial Electronics Society (IES) was the first to report in the early 1980s on industrial applications of microprocessors. The IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS proudly continues this tradition.

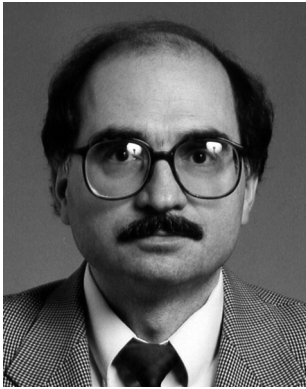
The year 2008 marks the first time the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS gives away the Best Paper Award, approved by the IEEE Technical Activities Board in 2007. The award for 2007 went to a paper entitled “System Level Design for Clustered Wireless Sensor Networks,” authored by Alvise Bonivento, Carlo Fischione, Luca Necchi, Fernando Pianegiani, and Alberto Sangiovanni-Vincentelli, and published in vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 202–214, August 2007, in the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS. Congratulations to the authors.

IEEE technical conferences, symposia, and workshops are important sources of up-to-date information on current research trends for the research community. Surveying citations of conference papers in the material published in the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS in 2007 showed that two of the IEEE IES sponsored technical events had the largest share of citations, namely: IEEE International Workshop on Factory Communication Systems (WFCS), with the largest number of citations of all IEEE conferences, and IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation (ETFA) with the second largest share of citations. What we see here is a synergy between the publication and technical activities of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society.

This is the last issue of the IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS for 2008. I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society Executive and mine gratitude to all Associate Editors and Reviewers for their contribution to the Journal. I also wish to thank Martin J. Morahan, Managing Editor, IEEE Periodicals, and Farah D. Pedley, Associate Editor, IEEE Transactions and Journals, for their assistance in running this publication and their friendship.

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Dr. Richard Zurawski (M'84–SM'06) received the M.S. degree in informatics and automation from the University of Mining and Metallurgy, Krakow, Poland, and the Ph.D. degree in computer science from LaTrobe University, Melbourne, Australia.

He is affiliated with ISA Group, San Francisco, CA, involved in providing solutions to 1000 Fortune companies. Prior to that, he held various executive positions with San Francisco Bay area-based companies. He was also a full-time R&D advisor with Kawasaki Electric, Tokyo, Japan, and held a regular professorial appointment at the Institute of Industrial Sciences, University of Tokyo. He was Editor of five major handbooks: *The Industrial Information Technology Handbook*, CRC Press; *The Industrial Communication Technology Handbook*, CRC Press; *Embedded Systems Handbook*, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis; *Integration Technologies for Industrial Automated Systems*, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis; and *Embedded Systems Design and Verification*, vol. 1, *Embedded Systems Handbook 2nd edition*, and *Networked Embedded Systems*, vol. 2, *Embedded Systems Handbook 2nd edition*, both CRC Press/Taylor & Francis. A monograph *Networking Systems on Chip*, Morgan Kaufman, San Francisco, is scheduled for publication in 2009.

He was a Guest Editor of a special issue on Industrial Communication Systems in PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE, June 2005. In 1998, he was invited by IEEE SPECTRUM to contribute an article on Java technology to "Technology 1999: Analysis and Forecast Issue." He was a Guest Editor of three special sections on various aspects of industrial automation in IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS. He has established three major technical events: IEEE Workshop on Factory Communication Systems, IEEE International Conference on Emerging Technologies and Factory Automation, and IEEE Symposium on Industrial Embedded Systems. He is the Editor for the Industrial Information Technology book series, CRC Press/Taylor & Francis. He has served as an Associate Editor for IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS (1994–2007), and served as EDITOR AT LARGE FOR IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL INFORMATICS (2006).

Dr. Zurawski served as a Vice President of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES) and has served as the Chairman of the IEEE IES Technical Committee on Factory Automation (2005–2008). He was on a steering committee of the ASME/IEEE *Journal of Microelectromechanical Systems*. In 1996, he received the Anthony J. Hornfeck Service Award from the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society.